



## GRAND COUNTY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Grand County Commission Chambers  
Hybrid virtual participation on Zoom  
Moab, Utah

**WATCH ON YOUTUBE - search for: "GRAND COUNTY UTAH GOVERNMENT"**

### MINUTES 20 January 2026

The Grand County Commission met in a regular meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The meeting was held in-person in the Grand County Commission Chambers, with hybrid virtual participation also available via Zoom. It was also broadcast and saved on YouTube. Attending the meeting in-person were Commission Chair Melodie McCandless, Commission Vice-Chair Bill Winfield and Commissioners Trish Hedin, Mary McGann, Brian Martinez, Jacques Hadler, and Mike McCurdy. Also attending in-person were Commission Administrator Mark Tyner, Associate Commission Administrator Quinn Hall, Clerk/Auditor Gabriel Woytek and County Attorney Stephen Stocks.

**Chair McCandless Called the Regular Meeting to Order at 4:00 p.m.**

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Chair explained that consideration of the Novak Rezone pulled**

#### **Citizens to be Heard**

Kent Green clarified that the Rally on the Rocks events would not be utilizing the Behind the Rocks trail during its event, despite rumors and suggestions otherwise.

#### **Presentations**

##### **2025 Employee Years of Service Recognitions**

The following Grand County employees were recognized for their years of service to the citizens of Grand County:

**5 years:** Scott Solle, Jared Meador, Constance Birchford, Quinn Hall, Misty Kovacs

**10 years:** Christopher Kauffman, Mary McGann, Silvia Payne, Jason Beddoes

**15 years:** Anthony Mosher, Jacob Blackwelder, Verle Green, Meg Flynn, Joseph Thurman

**20 years:** Emily Butterfield, Sandra O'Donnal, Jennifer Tibbets, Danalee Welch O'Donnal, Marcy Babcock, Mindy Lammert

**25 years:** Michael Striblen, Carrie Valdes

**30 years:** Duane Frandsen

#### **Public Hearing**

## **Four Corners Community Behavioral Health Annual Public Hearing**

Melissa Huntington, Executive Director of Four Corners Behavioral Health, described the purpose of this hearing which is to allow for citizens to provide input, review, or feedback for services provided by her agency. No citizens were present to speak in this regard and the hearing was closed at 4:13 p.m.

## **Presentations (continued)**

### **Grand County Sheriff Service Awards**

Sheriff Wiggins recognized several individuals with live-saving awards for their efforts related to search and rescue incidents at Fisher Towers and the Moab Skyway.

### **UDWR PILT Check Presentation to the County**

Chris Wood of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources presented a check for \$4,358 as a payment in lieu of property taxes for the UDWR land holdings in Grand County. Wood gave an overview of his agency's activities in Grand County.

## **General Business - Action Items, Discussion and Consideration of:**

### **1. Commission member disclosures and future considerations**

Commissioner McCurdy disclosed that his wife is an employee at the Grand County Sheriff's Office and Commissioner McGann disclosed that her son is an employee at the Sand Flats Recreation Area and her husband is a Commissioner of the Moab Valley Fire District.

Commissioner Winfield requested that an airport study be considered for the next Commission agenda.

### **2. Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

- A. Approval Of Meeting Minutes for January 6, 2026**
- B. Ratification of Payment of Bills**
- C. Ratification Of Renewal Of I-70 Billboard Contract**
- D. Ratification Of Online Letter in Support of Continued Federal Funding for Trails**
- E. Letter In Support of Continued Federal Funding for Trails to the Utah Delegation**
- F. Ratification Of Local Consent - Canyonlands PRCA Rodeo**
- G. Cemetery Board Appointment**
- H. Letter Of Support for Rural Utah Motion Picture Incentive Program to Legislators**
- I. Purchase Of Inflatable River Boat for Search and Rescue**
- J. Express Evaluations Subscription Renewal**
- K. Contractor Agreement with Pronghorn Construction for Arroyo Crossing Ph. II - using CDBG Grant Funds**
- L. CDBG Interagency Agreement Grand County, Arroyo Crossing**
- M. Consulting Party Status with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) For 2026 Oil And Gas Sale in Grand County**
- N. Approval Of Lease Assumption Lot 118 CNY**
- O. Low Income Housing Loan Contract**
- P. Contract With Jones and DeMille Engineering for Sand Flats Road BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Planning Grant Application**
- Q. Bid Award, Notice to Proceed and Contract for ARFF Vehicle**

## **R. Consideration of Approval of Revised/Adopted Job Descriptions**

**Motion by** Commissioner McCurdy to approve the Consent Agenda as read by the Chair, excepting item O

**Motion Seconded by** Commissioner Martinez

**Discussion** (none at this time)

**Motion passes 7-0**

## **3. Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan (Emergency Manager Kate Finley)**

### **Presentation**

The Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan (CWPP) is a five-year plan outlining mitigation, preparedness, and prevention strategies to address the risk of wildfire. Communities that participate in Utah's Cooperative Wildfire System (CWS), in which the state shares the cost of catastrophic fires in exchange for local government providing initial attack and engaging in prevention, preparedness, and mitigation strategies, are required to maintain a CWPP.

This plan contains goals for Grand County as well as the City of Moab, given the fire risks associated with creek corridors that run through the County as well as the City. This plan is the result of a collaborative effort between Grand County, the City of Moab, Moab Valley Fire Department, Utah Forestry, Fire and State Lands, and Rim to Rim Restoration. County departments that participated in planning include Emergency Management, Grand County Road Department, Grand County Noxious Weeds Department, Grand County GIS Specialist, and Grand County Building Department. Team Rubicon to come to Moab to work on fire fuels mitigation from March 16-22, 2026.

**Motion by** Commissioner McCurdy to approve the 2026 Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan for Grand County and the City of Moab

**Motion Seconded by** Commissioner Hadler

**Discussion** (none at this time)

**Motion passes 7-0**

## **4. Special Events – Legacy Events (Special Events Coordinator Jenibeth Jones)**

### **Presentation**

Jones gave an overview of events to be considered for legacy status, which were those events run by Mad Moose (all those already established), the Moab 240, the Moab Trail Marathon, Skinny Tire Festival (Spring and Fall), Jenk Star Ranch, John Wayne Grit Series, and Jeep Jamboree.

Commissioner Hedin sought clarification as to the threshold for how long running an event needs to be considered for legacy status, which was set at 5 years. All events in consideration are in good standing.

**Motion by** Commissioner McCurdy to approve the Special Events Legacy List as presented

**Motion seconded by** Commissioner Martinez

**Discussion**

Discussion regarding whether any novel events run by Mad Moose would be automatically granted legacy status, with agreement that any such new events would not automatically be granted that designation.

**Motion passes 7-0**

**5. 2026 Special Events High Impact Events Ready for Review (Special Events Coordinator Jenibeth Jones)****Presentation**

Events considered at this time: Building Man 2026, RedRok Rally 2027, Raptors on the Rocks 2027 and Moab Grenadier Gathering West 2027. Events now able to be approved up to 18 months in advance. Events with problems in 2026 can have their event permit revoked in 2027. Commissioner McCurdy suggested that two events could be held simultaneously at OSTA, such as the case of Raptors on the Rocks and Moab Grenadier Gathering West in 2027. Commission discussion led to the conclusion that approval of Raptors on the Rocks 2027 and Moab Grenadier Gathering West 2027 should be delayed at this time in order to address potential conflicts with events being held at OSTA at the same date.

**Motion by** Commissioner Hedin to approve the High Impact Event Submissions: Building Man 2026 and RedRok Rally 2027

**Motion Seconded by** Commissioner Martinez

**Discussion** (none at this time)

**Motion passes 7-0**

**6. Immediate Backfill Position Requests (Personnel Services Director Tess Barger)****Presentation**

Barger went over the range of current backfill position requests, as presented in the agenda packet, distinguishing between positions housed within elected and non-elected offices.

**Deputy Assessor (replacement of outgoing retiring staff person)**

Commissioner Hedin stated that the hiring freeze was put on for 2026 in order to address budgeting challenges, and that all departments needed to work as a team to cut costs in any way possible. Assessor Swasey gave more detail regarding the importance of this particular position.

**Motion by** Commissioner Winfield to approve filling the Deputy Assessor position, as presented

**Motion seconded by** Commissioner McCurdy

**Discussion**

Commissioner McCurdy spoke to the importance of the DMV services to the community.

**Motion passes 7-0**

**Chief Deputy Recorder:** Replacement of position vacated in 2025.

**Discussion**

Recorder Nelson stated that this position had been budgeted for.

**Motion by** Commissioner Winfield to approve filling the Chief Deputy Recorder position, as presented

**Motion seconded by** Commissioner Martinez

**Discussion**

Commissioner Winfield stressed the importance of maintain the staff necessary to comply with statute.

**Motion passes 7-0**

**Sheriff Deputy position (Task Force Commander)**

**Discussion**

Sheriff Wiggins explained that there were qualified internal candidates to fill this role, which would result in an additional vacancy.

**Motion by** Commissioner Winfield to approve filling the Task Force Commander position, as presented

**Motion seconded by** Commissioner McGann

**Discussion**

Promotion from within, with new vacancy to be filled externally.

**Motion passes 6-0, McCurdy abstaining**

**Dispatch position**

**Discussion**

Sheriff Wiggins explained that this position was vital for compliance with state mandates.

**Motion by** Commissioner Winfield to approve filling the Dispatch position, as presented

**Motion seconded by** Commissioner McCurdy

**Motion passes 7-0**

**Sand Flats Recreation Area: Two Recreation Technicians and Apprentice**

**Discussion**

SFRA Director Andrea Brand explained that there would be no net budgetary impact due to other vacancies and hour reductions on her staff, and that these positions were important to fill and train before the visitor season began.

**Motion by** Commissioner Martinez to approve filling two SFRA Recreation Technicians and one apprentice, as presented

**Motion seconded** by Commissioner McCurdy

**Motion passes 7-0**

### **Airport Operations Manager** (reclassification approved during budget discussions)

#### **Discussion**

Airport Director Steven Gleason explained that there were three current vacancies at the airport, and that this action only served to fill one of those vacancies.

**Motion by** Commissioner McCurdy to approve filling the Airport Operation Manager position, as presented

**Motion seconded** by Commissioner Winfield

**Motion passes 7-0**

### **Onsite Crisis Nursery Worker** (Family Support Center)

#### **Discussion**

Clarification made that this position was entirely grant-funded through the TANF program.

**Motion by** Commissioner McCurdy to approve filling the Onsite Crisis Nursery Worker position, as presented

**Motion seconded** by Commissioner Martinez

**Motion passes 7-0**

## **7. Ordinance - Grant Administration** (Melisa Jeffers, Economic Development Coordinator)

#### **Presentation**

Grand County has previously operated without a subgrant policy. This new policy replaces the previous practice of full upfront payments with a reimbursement model that offers advance payments (up to 25%), more closely aligned with best practices from state models. This approach strengthens accountability, ensures timely project completion and reporting, while still supporting organizations with limited cash flow capacity.

**Motion by** Commissioner McGann to approve the grant administration policy ordinance as presented

**Motion Seconded by** Commissioner McCurdy

**Discussion** (none at this time)

**Motion passes 5-2, Hadler and McCurdy absent**

**8. Resolution – Vista Antigua Subdivision Amended Plat** (Planning and Zoning Director Andrew Jackson)

**Presentation**

Jackson gave an overview of the proposed action, as presented in the packet. The proposed action involves an amendment of common boundary lines between lots and amending 30' drainage easement. It also includes a small parcel of land set aside for future development to be added to lot 30. Staff recommends approval.

**Motion by** Commissioner Winfield to approve the amended plat for the Vista Antigua Subdivision

**Motion Seconded by** Commissioner McCurdy

**Discussion**

Amendment of common boundary lines between lots and amending 30' drainage easement. It also includes a small parcel of land set aside for future development to be added to lot 30.

**Motion passes 6-0, McGann absent**

**9. Approve Madden Media's paid media plan for 2026** (Michael Soleta, Assistant Marketing Director)

**Presentation**

The Moab Office of Tourism began working with Madden Media in early summer 2025. The Madden team have shown themselves to be excellent partners, both as team members to the Moab Office of Tourism and as experts in the destination marketing space.

This media plan showcases Madden's 2026 advertising buys, showing 21 media placements, as well as a plan for the Utah Office of Tourism's co-op marketing program and international buys. In 2026, the MOT plans to spend \$1,400,000 on advertisements through Madden Media. The Moab Tourism Advisory Board approved this media plan unanimously at its January 13 board meeting, following a workshop on January 12.

The Commission approved the MOT's total paid media advertising budget line in December that highlighted this amount; on January 6, the Commission approved an amendment to MOT's contract with Madden Media to approve the total spend with the agency, including the \$1,400,000 spend on advertisements.

**Motion by** Commissioner Martinez to approve Madden Media's 2026 paid media plan

**Motion Seconded by** Commissioner Hadler

**Discussion**

Commissioner Martinez referred the public to recorded workshops by Madden Media which contains a presentation with further detail regarding 2025 and 2026 campaigns.

**Motion passes 5-0, McCandless and McGann absent**

**O. Low-Income Housing Loan Contract** (pulled from consent agenda)

**Presentation**

Discussion was made regarding specification of the source of funding for this loan. Attorney Stocks summarized some details of the contract including terms related to default

**Motion by** Commissioner McCurdy to approve the Low-Income Housing Loan Contract

**Motion Seconded by** Commissioner Martinez

**Discussion**

Amendment of common boundary lines between lots and amending 30' drainage easement. It also includes a small parcel of land set aside for future development to be added to lot 30.

**Motion passes 5-2, Hedin and Hadler opposed**

**6pm Citizens to be Heard**

Kent Green offered further clarification that the event that he operates, RedRok Rally, will not be utilizing the Behind the Rocks Trail system.

Craig Nelson stated that he intended to run for County Sheriff and announced his presence at the meeting.

**Chair McCandless adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.**

---

Melodie McCandless  
Chair, Grand County Commission

ATTEST:

---

Gabriel Woytek  
Grand County Clerk/Auditor